

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~  
THE DIRECTOR OF  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Council

25 March 1985

NOTE FOR:

25X1

SUBJECT: US - Soviet Space Cooperation

We have examined the attached State proposal to McFarlane. From the point of view of intelligence, we emphasize the danger of avoiding unwanted technology transfer or gain by the USSR from any such space cooperation efforts with the US.

In addition, there are of course many policy questions to examine. For example, could such a US initiative blunt our SDI negotiating strength, or permit the USSR to make "peaceful" propaganda progress at US expense? And, what would be the optimum timing for any such US initiative -- should it not come later than 29 March, if by that time the Potsdam affair and Berlin air corridors questions have not been resolved to US satisfaction? Finally, has this initiative re space cooperation been carefully integrated into the totality of US negotiating interests at present with the USSR?

The above "we" includes representatives of NIO/USSR, NIO/S&T, NIO/SP, ACIS, OSWR, Herb Meyer, and myself.



Hal Ford  
NIO At Large

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**SENSITIVE**

**SECRET**

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506  
March 25, 1985

Executive Registry

85- 1292

UNCLASSIFIED W/SECRET SENSITIVE ATTACHMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL R. J. AFFOURTIT  
Executive Secretary  
Department of Defense

☐ Executive Secretary  
Central Intelligence Agency

KENNETH PEDERSEN  
Director of International Affairs  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

SUBJECT: U.S. - Soviet Space Cooperation

Please provide your comments on the attached by COB today.

*Robert M. Kimmitt*  
Robert M. Kimmitt  
Executive Secretary

Attachment

State memo, dated March 22, 1985

UNCLASSIFIED W/SECRET/SENSITIVE ATTACHMENT  
Declassify on: OADR

**SECRET**

25X1



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SECRET

March 22, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE  
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: US-Soviet Space Cooperation

On March 29, the President is scheduled to deliver a speech before the Goddard Society following receipt of their award. We understand that his comments on that occasion could present us with an opportunity to announce the Administration's desire to begin discussions with the Soviet Union on possible renewed bilateral cooperation in outer space.

The Soviets have privately expressed keen interest in renewing space cooperation; their desire to renew bilateral space activities could act as leverage to break loose your proposal for a joint simulated space rescue mission. On each occasion when raising the rescue mission, they have rebuffed us with the response that such cooperation would be out of the question as long as the US was seeking to "militarize space." Offering them talks could bring the simulated space rescue mission to the bargaining table.

Before the proposed talks begin, we would work carefully to coordinate this initiative vis-a-vis the Soviet Union with our cooperative space program with our friends and Allies (including the space station). We would also delineate means to eliminate unwarranted technology transfer. Attached is a draft paragraph for the President's speech which would announce the proposal (Tab A). A non-paper for immediate forwarding to the Soviet Government through Ambassador Dobrynin is presented in Tab B.

Involving the Soviet Union in talks on cooperative space activities could act as a foil for the Soviets' anti-SDI propaganda. The proposal will demonstrate clearly our peaceful approach to space at a time when the Soviets continue to emphasize to all and sundry that the United States is seeking to "militarize space."

We therefore recommend that you insert into the President's speech for March 29 the draft language announcing US-Soviet talks on future space cooperation and approve the Secretary delivering the attached non-paper to Ambassador Dobrynin.

*B. McKinley*  
for Nicholas Platt  
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

As stated.

SECRET

DECL: OADR

**SENSITIVE**

A

PROPOSED INSERT TO PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

The United States has undertaken major cooperative ventures in space with our friends and Allies. The keystone for this cooperation is the permanently manned space station. We also are prepared to work with other nations in exploring space and applying our knowledge to the benefit of mankind. On several occasions, I have expressed my belief that cooperation with the Soviet Union in programs which are mutually beneficial and productive could yield practical benefits to all mankind.

The United States and the Soviet Union should work together to take advantage of the vast opportunities before us in the peaceful exploration of outer space. In this spirit, I have proposed to the Government of the Soviet Union that they meet with us in the coming months to begin discussions to establish a basis for future space cooperation. Our talks will seek an expansion from the current modest joint programs to activities which are broader in scope. Cooperation in space research and exploration could serve our common interests and contribute in a significant way to the cause of peace.

The challenges are as evident as the benefits: the linking of our two countries' capacities in space research and exploration would prove that we can work together to advance man's knowledge of the world he lives in, and is an objective worthy of our best efforts.

B

Cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union has been framed by a series of agreements which includes the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts, and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, and the US-USSR Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes. Since 1982, joint research activities have been supported by implementing arrangements between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

On October 30, 1984, President Reagan signed a statement addressing our long-term interests in East-West ventures in space. The President, in underscoring his desire to increase contacts with the USSR, noted that "we are prepared to work with the Soviets on cooperation in space in programs which are mutually beneficial and productive." In ending his statement, the President expressed his view that "cooperative programs offer practical benefits for all mankind."

We propose that the Soviet Union join us in discussions which would seek to establish a firm basis for future cooperation in space research and exploration. Moreover, we propose the discussions begin in the coming months with the venue agreed upon through diplomatic channels.